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INVESTIGATIONS AT TAIPEI FORMOSA

BRITISH STATEMENT ON AIRLINER CRASH ENQUIRY

PEKING, January 14. - The British Charge d'Affaires, C.D.W. O'Neill, on January 11, sent to Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Han-fu a British Government statement issued the same day on the findings of its enquiry into the crash of the Indian airliner "Kashmir Princess" last April. The text of the statement reads :

Consequent upon the loss of the Air India aircraft "Kashmir Princess" on April 11th, 1955 on a flight between Hong Kong and Djakarta, and upon allegations that the crash had been the direct result of an act of sabotage, intensive enquiries were instituted by the Hong Kong Government.

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File
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 Tele. Room _____
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 Miss Gandy _____

MR. BRANIGAN

Kashmir Princess

(PLANE)

TAIPEI--THE NATIONALIST CHINESE GOVERNMENT FORMALLY DENIED TODAY BRITISH CHARGES THAT IT PLOTTED THE SABOTAGE OF AN INDIA AIRLINES PLANE LAST APRIL.

"NO ONE SERVING IN AN ORGANIZATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE IN ANY WAY," A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SAID.

THE BRITISH COLONIAL OFFICE IN HONG KONG HAD CHARGED THAT EVIDENCE SHOWED NATIONALIST INTELLIGENCE AGENTS HIRED A HONG KONG AIRPORT EMPLOYEE, CHOU TSE MING, TO PLANT A TIME BOMB ABOARD THE COMMERCIAL AIR LINER.

THE PLANE CRASHED ENROUTE TO THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE AND 15 COMMUNIST CHINESE DELEGATES AND NEWSMEN WERE KILLED.

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS-SERVICE

BRITISH STATEMENT ON AIRLINER CRASH ENQUIRY, (continued)

These enquiries included interrogation and enquiry into the antecedents of 71 persons connected in one way or another with the servicing of the aircraft during its stay of just over one hour in Hong Kong.

After examination of the wreckage of the aircraft the committee of enquiry set up by the Government of Indonesia established on May 12th that the crash was due to an explosion caused by the detonation of an explosive device inside the starboard wing at the rear outboard corner of the wheelbay.

Among the 27 persons whose duty took them in the vicinity of the starboard wing of the aircraft and whose activities were consequently under enquiry was ~~Chow Tse-ming~~ alias ~~Chou Chu~~, an employee of the Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Corporation. Direct suspicion did not fall on him until May 18, enquiries at his address on that day failed to find him; information was subsequently obtained that some hours before these enquiries were made he had stowed away on a civil air transport aircraft and had arrived in Taipeh, Formosa, on the same day.

In the course of subsequent police investigation of persons who had been associated with Chow Tse-ming before his departure for Formosa, evidence came to light to suggest that he had been procured by persons connected with a Kuomintang intelligence organisation and had been offered a reward. There was also evidence that on 4 separate occasions subsequent to the crash he had admitted his complicity. The accounts of what he is alleged to have said on each occasion varied slightly in detail but in general they strongly corroborated each other and contained statements that he admitted that :

- (A) He had sabotaged the aircraft;
- (B) He had been promised a reward of 600,000 Hong Kong dollars;
- (C) He had used a small time bomb which made a slight ticking noise;
- (D) He intended to stow away to Formosa.

In addition there was evidence that shortly before the crash and subsequently until he went to Formosa Chow Tse-ming spent some hundreds of dollars, a sum well beyond his normal means.

Accordingly on September 3rd, the Hong Kong police obtained a warrant for this man's arrest on a charge of conspiracy to murder.

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